

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 243515

TOSEC 742

FOLTEL SENT SECSTATE INFO PARIS ATHENS ANKARA LONDON MOSCOW
BEIRUT FM NICOSIA NOV 5

QTE:

S E C R E T NICOSIA 3889

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR STABLER

PARIS FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, EAIR, UK, TU

SUBJECT: NICOSIA AIRPORT: AEROFLOT OFFER TO CYPRUS AIRWAYS

REF: STATE 240145; STATE 242003

1. I SAW FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES NOVEMBER 5 TO GIVE HIM US
VIEWS ON AEROFLOT OFFER AND REOPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT
AS CONTAINED PARA 4 REF A AS AMENDED BY SECTO 317.
CHRISTOPHIDES' COMMENT WAS THAT WE WERE GIVING BACK TO HIM
EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD ORIGINALLY SAID TO US. THE QUESTION
REMAINED WHAT WAS US PREPARED TO DO TO HELP GET THE NICOSIA

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AIRPORT REOPENED? GOC WOULD CAREFULLY WEIGH RELATIVE MERITS

OF AEROFLOT AND BRITISH MIDLANDS OFFERS BUT SOVIETS CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATING THEIR PRESSURES. POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES OF CONTINUING TO TEMPORIZE WOULD INCREASE. BEST ANSWER LAY IN REOPENING NICOSIA TO PERMIT RESUMPTION OF REGULAR CYPRUS AIRWAYS OPERATIONS.

2. I REPLIED THAT USG ACTIVELY CONCERNING ITSELF WITH PROBLEMS ENTAILED IN NICOSIA REOPENING.

3. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE HAD IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT UK MOD WAS WILLING LET CYPRUS AIRWAYS USE AKROTIRI FOR THREE FLIGHTS A DAY. THIS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL AND WOULD RELIEVE PROBLEM UNTIL NICOSIA REOPENED. HOWEVER, ACCORDING HIS REPORT, FCO HAD VETOED THE IDEA IN FEAR OF TURKISH REACTION. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE INTENDED TALK UK HIGH COMMISSIONER WITH THIS. CRAWFORD UNQTE INGERSOLL

SECRET

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